

LIBRARY ORIENTATION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENTS

Library Research Assistance – Book an appointment with a librarian

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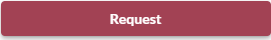

Where to start your research

Political Science Subject Guide (<https://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/political-science.html>): includes recommended subject-specific journal article databases, resources on methodology, news sources, government information, statistical and data sources. Information about peer review and related tools.

Using Concordia Library Spaces

Webster Library has dedicated graduate student space on the 5th floor of LB in the dissertation writer's rooms, lounge and kitchen. Use your student ID to access the space, if your student ID won't give you access to the grad space, go to the Ask Us desk on the 2nd floor for assistance. Lockers in the grad spaces are available at the Webster Loans Desk on a first come, first served basis, **starting on Mon, Sept 29, 2025**.

Borrowing books and other materials at Concordia

- [Sofia Discovery Tool](#) is the library catalogue, with access to print books, ebooks, articles, and media
- Borrow up to 100 items at a time (books and media), with your student ID card
- Books can be borrowed for 30 days, (with automatic renewals)
- Students can place a hold on print books and request print books from Vanier library using the request button in Sofia 
- Students can request scans of articles from Concordia print journals or chapters from Concordia print books, via  and the scan will be emailed to you as a PDF
- Students can borrow laptops for 3 days from the Loans/Circulation desk

Borrowing books and requesting ejournal articles from other libraries

- Concordia users may borrow print books from other Quebec University libraries, and print books from libraries worldwide through interlibrary loans, look for these buttons in Sofia:



Note: Ebooks are **not** available to borrow or access from Quebec University libraries or Libraries Worldwide due to licensing.

- Interlibrary loans can also be used to request a single chapter from an ebook not owned by Concordia.
- If there is an entire ebook you wish to access, contact Michelle, she may be able to buy it for the library, or obtain a print copy; there are also some instances where you could go to another university and access the ebook on site, at their library (McGill for instance).

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The screenshot shows the Concordia University Library homepage. At the top left is the Concordia University logo and the word "Library". Below this are navigation tabs: "FIND", "HELP & HOW-TO", "RESEARCH SUPPORT", and "TECHNOLOGY". A search bar is prominently displayed with the text "Sofia Discovery tool" and a search input field containing "Books, ebooks, articles, and more". Below the search bar are links for "User guide" and "Searching Sofia". On the right side, there is a dropdown menu with options: "Library Research Skills Tutorial", "Ask a Librarian", and "Log into ...". The "Log into ..." option is circled in red. A black callout box with a white arrow points to this option, containing the text: "Login to My Library Account (Sofia) to renew books, place holds and to access ebooks and ejournals from home". On the left side, a purple callout box with a white arrow points to the search bar, containing the text: "Search Sofia for print books, ebooks and ejournal articles". At the bottom of the page is a blue navigation bar with icons and labels for: "DATABASES BY SUBJECT", "E-JOURNALS", "COURSE RESERVES & TEXTBOOKS", "CITATION GUIDES & ZOTERO", "LOANS & RETURNS", and "BOOK A GROUP STUDY ROOM".

Notable Library Subject Guides

Political Science subject guide: <https://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/political-science.html>

School of Community and Public Affairs subject guide: <https://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/scpa.html>

Government Information subject guide: <https://library.concordia.ca/find/government/index.php>

Statistics & data guide: <https://library.concordia.ca/find/statistics.php>

GradPro Skills Library Workshops

Using Zotero for Grads - Sept 23, 2025, 1:00-2:30pm in person, (Webster Library)

Introduction to Zettelkasten note-taking and tools for writing research - Sept 25, 2025, 9:00am-12:00pm in person, (Webster Library)

Researching Indigenous Topics - Instructor: Michelle Lake - Oct 1, 2025, 1:00-3:00pm, in person (Webster Library, LB 207)

Library skills & resources – Oct 2, 2025, 10:00-12:00, in person (Webster Library)

Data mining and algorithmic bias - Oct 8, 2025, 2:00pm-4:00pm in person (Webster Library)

Evaluating tools and requirements for digital humanities research - Oct 22, 2025, 9:00am-11:00am in person (Webster Library)